

# Sutherland Reservoir

## 2015 Fall Survey Summary



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Sutherland Reservoir is the first canal reservoir downstream from Lakes McConaughy and Ogallala. This reservoir is utilized for cooling of Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) Gerald Gentleman Station. This results in warmer water temperatures earlier in the spring and later into the fall than other reservoirs. Sutherland Reservoir offers unique fishing opportunities as a result of its functionality. Notice these aspects and special regulations on [NPPD's Recreation](#) document.



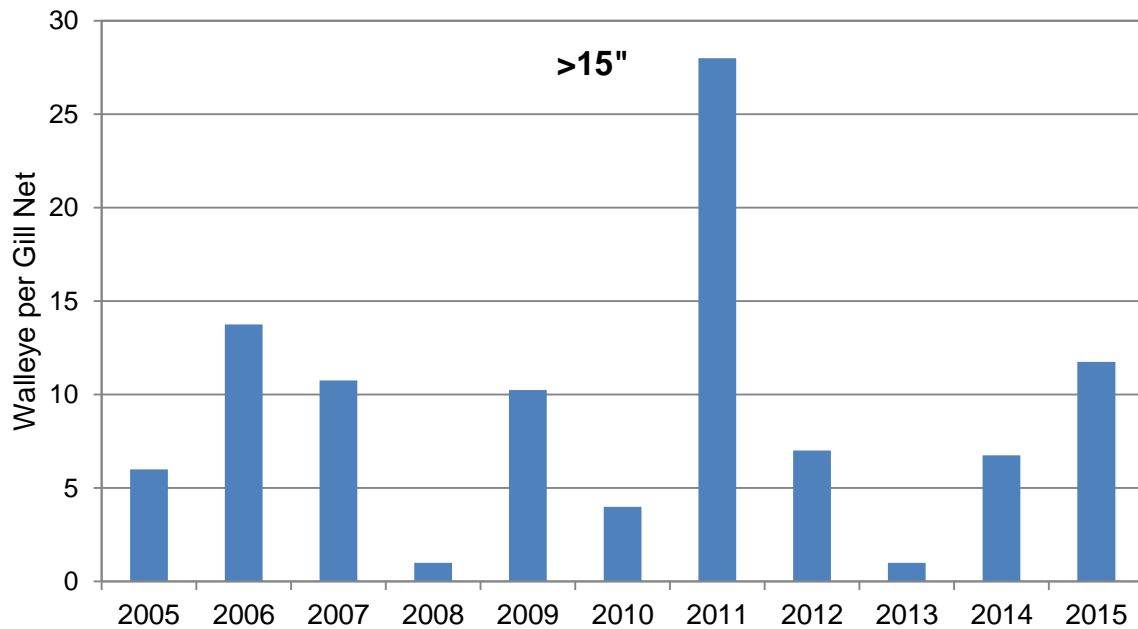
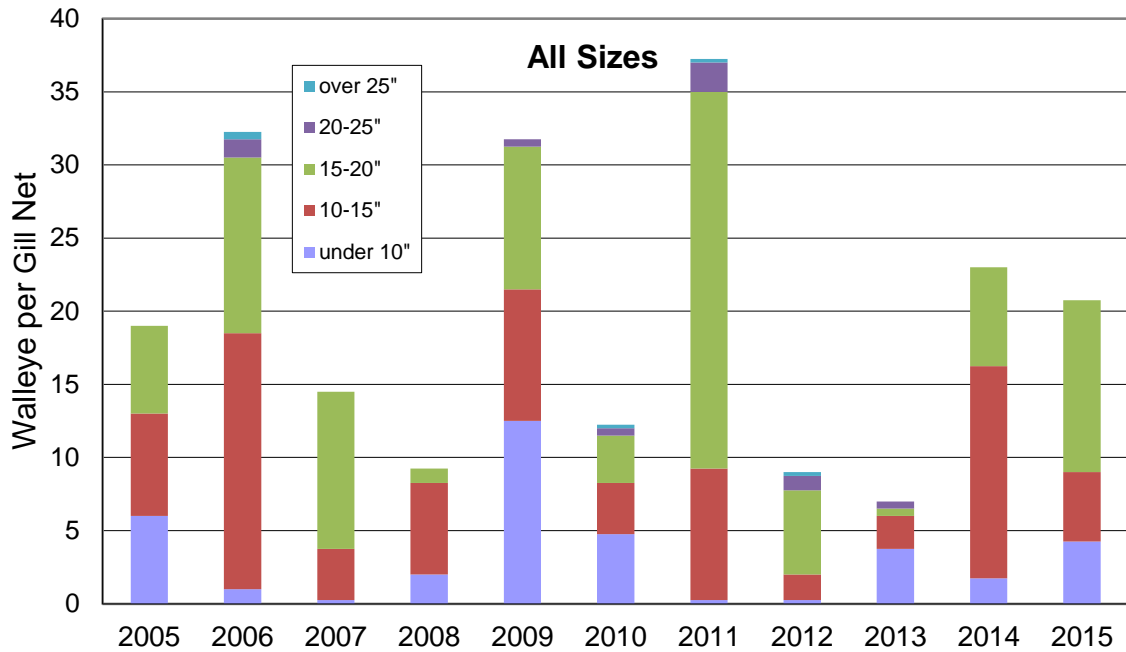
Information collected from standard surveys allows biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates for several species. This data provides valuable information to guide decision making scenarios that include fish species stocked, stocking rates and fishing regulations. This information also assists Game and Parks staff in guiding anglers to waterbodies that have the desired populations for fishing.

The following text and graphs are the result of the 2015 gill netting survey at Sutherland Reservoir. Graphs represent number of each species captured per gill net by length group. For comparative purposes it also shows results from previous years.

The [2016 Fishing Guide](#) explains regulations pertaining to Sutherland's fishery.

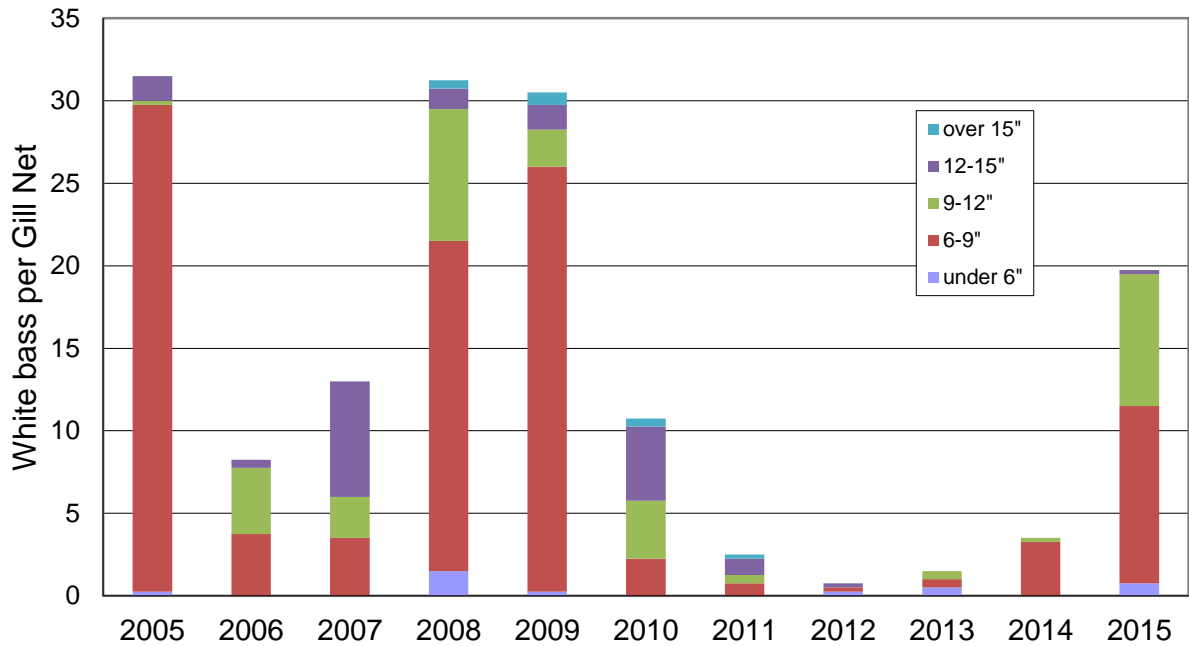
# Standard Population Survey Results

## Walleye



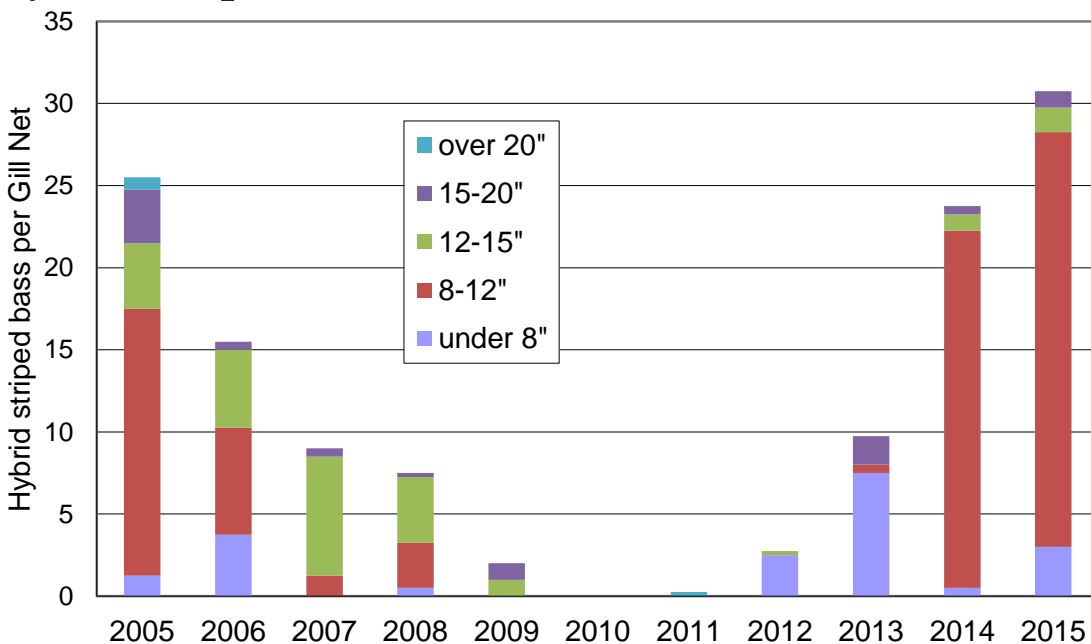
In 2015, 21 walleye were sampled per gill net with 20% <10", 23% 10-15", and 57% 15-20". The abundance of 10-15" walleye observed in this survey bodes well for walleye angling in coming years. Relative weight calculations indicate that all sizes of Sutherland's walleye are in excellent body condition.

# White bass



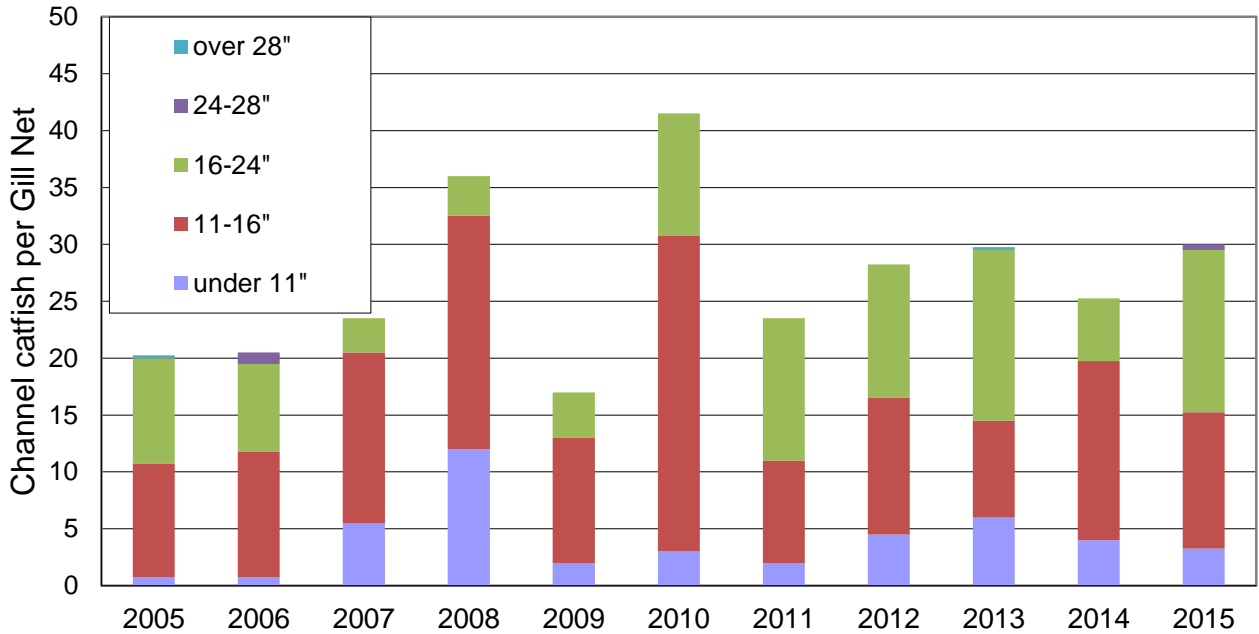
White bass catch rate rebounded in 2015 with 20 sampled per net with a mean length of 9". This sample was comprised by 4% under 6", 54% 6-9" 40% 9-12" and 2% over 15". Natural recruitment supports the white bass fishery and angling success is typically observed by anglers at the inlet and boat anglers follow gulls to find feeding white bass.

# Hybrid striped bass



The 2015 survey was comprised of individuals from the 2013, 14 and 15 stockings. A low density population consisting of large individuals (> 20") is desired. Average length of those sampled was 9". Due to this abundance of small hybrid striped bass, anglers need to identify species of catch to differentiate between white bass and hybrid striped bass. Release of hybrid striped bass will allow these fish to reach their growth potential. Access the [NGPC Fish Identification Guide](#) for tips on identifying these species prior to harvest.

# Channel catfish



Channel catfish were sampled at or above average quantity in 2014 with 30 sampled per gill net with 11% being <11", 40% 11-16", 48% 16-24" and 1% 24-28". Channel catfish are not stocked into Sutherland Reservoir as natural recruitment supports the fishery.

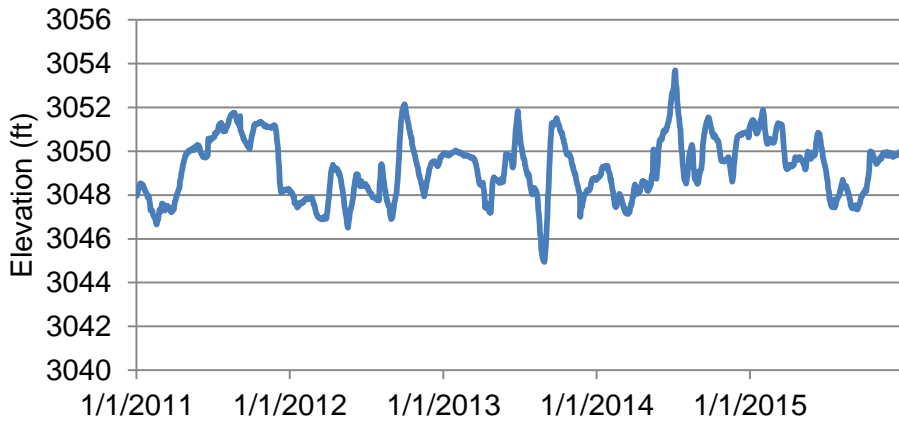




Sutherland Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC’s Hatchery System every year. Many factors are at play when stocking selections are made. Below you will find Sutherland’s stocking history for the past eleven years excluding some adult stockings during 2009. For this and more stocking details on Sutherland and other public waterbodies access [NGPC's Stocking Reports](#).

<b><u>Stocking Year</u></b>	<b><u>Walleye</u></b>	<b><u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u></b>	<b><u>White bass</u></b>
2005	80,738-1.5"	30,000-1"	
2006	75,950-1"	30,000-1.25"	
2007	75,225-1"	60,000-1.25"	
2008	83,300-1"	21,000-1.25"	
2009	79,299-1.5"		
2010	76,842-1.3"		
2011	79,988-1"		400,000-0.1"
2012	74,308-1.35"	9,889-2"	
2013	75,048-1.3"	29,594-1"	
2014	75,840-1.4"	30,000-1.3"	
2015	105,000-1.5"	30,300-1.5-2"	

## Sutherland Reservoir Water Level January 2011 - December 2015



## Sutherland Reservoir Water Level 2015



Sutherland Reservoir's water level fluctuates often. Access [NPPD's Water Data](#) to follow water level fluctuations.

If you have questions or concerns about Sutherland Reservoir's fishery  
please contact

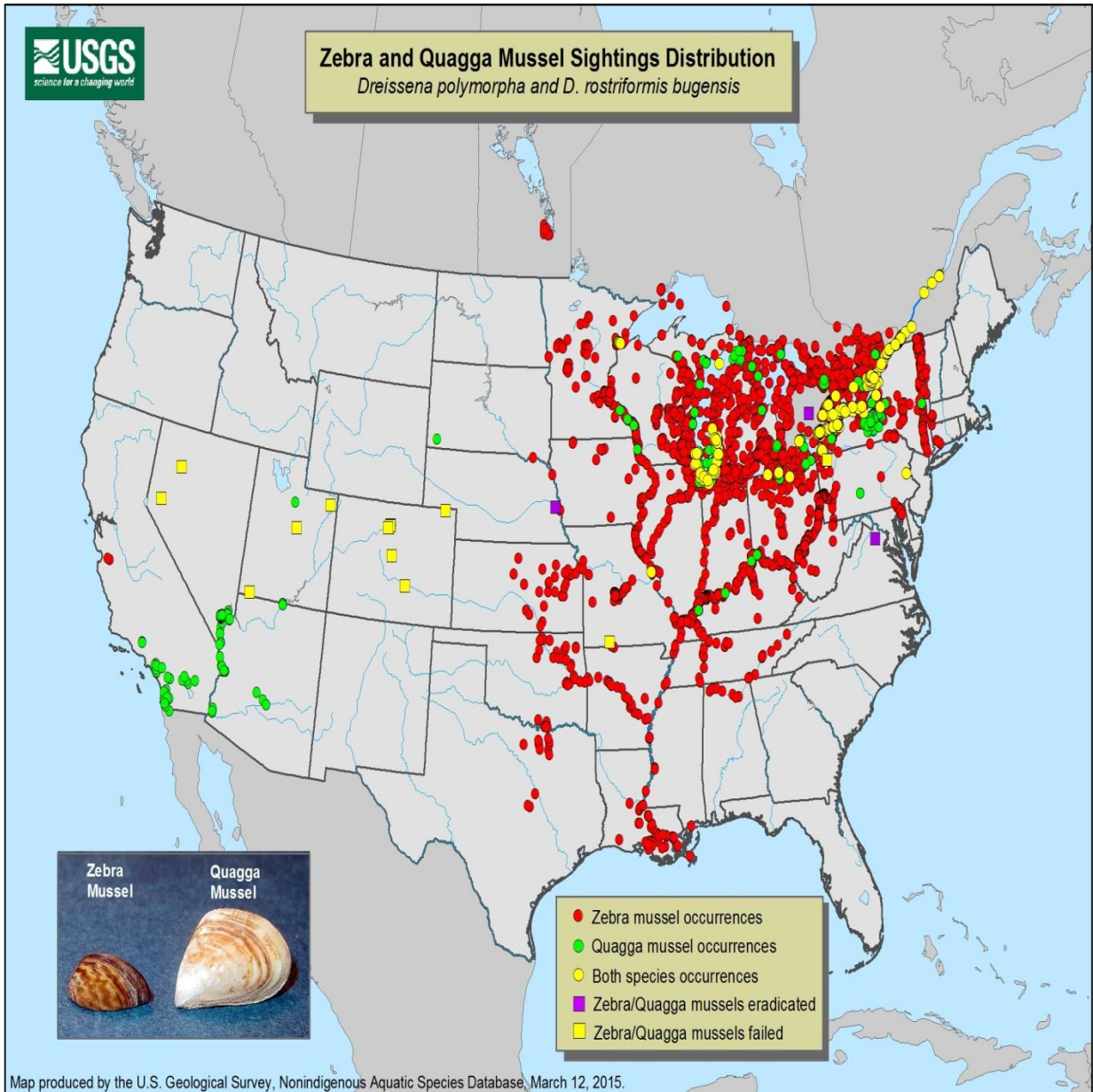
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## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Distribution of zebra and quagga mussels is getting closer and closer to SW Nebraska. The most recent finding was at Lewis and Clark Reservoir in NE Nebraska during 2015. This [map](#) portrays the spread of these invasive mussels and is updated often.



# Attention motorboat owners operating in Nebraska:

Starting in 2016, boaters whose motorized watercraft are registered in any state other than Nebraska must purchase and display a \$15 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Stamp each year they launch their boat in Nebraska. The stamp will help fund AIS education and inspection programs.



- Boat inspections for AIS prior to launch in Nebraska are NOT mandatory at this time.
- Personal watercraft registered outside of Nebraska must have this stamp.
- Non-motorized craft registered in any state are exempt from the stamp.
- Stamps are not required for boats registered in Nebraska. A \$5 AIS fee is included on the residents' three-year boat registrations.
- Residents who register their boats in other states must have this stamp before launching in Nebraska.

This stamp is available online at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org) or at Nebraska Game and Parks permitting offices.

Learn more about invasive species at [neinvasives.com](http://neinvasives.com).







## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™**

According to Nebraska State Law, **it is illegal for watercraft to enter a Nebraska waterbody or leave a launch area while containing water.** This includes all containers, compartments, and equipment that are permanently attached to the watercraft.

**AND**

**All aquatic vegetation must be removed from watercraft and trailers before leaving a launch area.**

Protect Your Waters—Remember to **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY!**

